

# Congratulations to the Winners of the Teen Writing Challenge

Grades 9—12

## Honorable Mention—Claire Shifflett

### Orange-Line Metro

Every day  
On the orange-line metro, she would wait;  
Wait with her lovely mahogany harp  
And her warm, knitted hat  
For a dollar;  
A piece of tangible hope,  
As delicate strings of rhythm  
Filled her ears  
And controlled her senses.  
What people couldn't see  
Was the way her soul poured itself  
Into each pluck of a fragile string;  
How her eyes remained  
Fluttering,  
As the entire symphony  
Harmonized around her insignificant tune;  
Vibrating through her chest;  
Booming through the auditorium,  
Which was really just an orange-line metro  
And a single woman with a lovely mahogany harp.  
So the empty hat came as no surprise  
To anyone  
Except the woman,  
Who shed a single warm tear  
As she stepped off the train into the cold, bitter night.

